



FORUMS ON PERCHLORATE TO BE HELD AUGUST 25, 1998 & AUGUST 27, 1998

The Interagency Perchlorate Steering Committee (IPSC) will be holding two one-day forums for stakeholders:
Tuesday, August 25, 1998 in Salt Lake City, Utah and Thursday, August 27, 1998 in Phoenix, Arizona.

Ammonium perchlorate is an inorganic salt used in solid rocket fuel, in munitions and in the pyrotechnics industry. Perchlorate manufacturers estimate that approximately 90% of perchlorate is used for solid rocket fuel. Ammonium perchlorate dissolves as easily as table salt, and the resulting anion can persist for decades in the environment, is stable and moves easily through both groundwater and surface water. Perchlorate from at least 14 separate sources has been detected in 110 public water supply wells in California, in detectable concentrations in the Colorado River from sources in Nevada, and in surface or groundwater in Utah, Texas, New York, Maryland, and Arkansas.

A number of key pieces of information are necessary to characterize the risk of perchlorate contamination in order to formulate appropriate management strategies to mitigate potential risk. Accurate characterization of exposures rely on reliable analytical detection methods. The exposure estimates cannot be gauged with respect to their risk unless a robust health risk estimate is available. Treatment technologies should be targeted to levels of concern and tailored to the intended use of the water. Research to obtain additional data and development of new methods or applications are underway in most of these areas to ensure that the state-of-the-science is brought to bear on addressing the unique issues of perchlorate contamination. Technology transfer is necessary so that all affected parties and concerned citizens are apprised of accurate and reliable information that is up to date with the evolving state-of-the-science.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the forums is to disseminate information on the key scientific issues, to identify additional issues, and to hear stakeholder concerns related to potential perchlorate contamination in the environment. The forums will cover a broad range of topics including:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> background and occurrence | <input type="checkbox"/> health effects and toxicology studies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> analytical techniques | <input type="checkbox"/> ecological impacts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> regulatory and policy issues | <input type="checkbox"/> treatment technologies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> future stakeholder involvement | |

Background materials on perchlorate issues will be sent in advance of the forum to those who register with the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline by August 18, 1998. The IPSC is seeking input from State and Tribal drinking water programs, the regulated community (public water systems), public health organizations, academia, environmental and public interest groups, engineering firms, and the public on a number of issues related to perchlorate contamination in the environment.

The IPSC encourages the full participation of stakeholders at the forums.

Tuesday, August 25, 1998

Utah Department of Environmental Quality
Building 2, Room 101
168 North 1950 West
Salt Lake City, Utah

Forum: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Evening public session: 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
(location of evening session to be confirmed)

Thursday, August 27, 1998

Arizona State University - West
La Sala Rooms B and C, University Center Building
4701 West Thunderbird
Phoenix, Arizona

Forum: 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

REGISTRATION: To register for one of the forums, please contact the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline by calling 1-800-426-4791 or 703-285-1093 between 9:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. EDT or by sending an e-mail message to: hotline-sdwa@epa.gov. There is no registration fee for the stakeholder forum, but participants should pre-register.

Those registered by August 18, 1998, will receive a draft agenda, logistics information, and discussion papers prior to the forum. Please provide your name, organization, title, mailing address, telephone number, facsimile number, and e-mail address, and specify the date of the forum you will attend. The agenda for the forums is the same in both cities.

(more, over)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For additional information on forum logistics, please contact the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791. A Federal Register notice of the stakeholder forums on perchlorate issues will be published on or about August 7, 1998.

The IPSC is a working partnership of governmental agencies chartered to facilitate and coordinate issues related to potential perchlorate contamination in the environment.

The members of the IPSC as of July 1998 are:

the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Defense,
the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, the National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences,
the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, the California Department of Health Services,
the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission,
the Utah Department of Environmental Quality, the Utah Department of Health Laboratories, the Cocopah Indian Tribe,
the Colorado River Indian Tribes, the Ft. Mojave Indian Tribe, the Chemehuevi Indian Tribe, and the Quechan Indian Tribe.